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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO SUSPEND CONSIDERATION OF ALL APPLICATIONS FOR GOLF COURSE PROJECTS UNTIL JULY 1, 2010, WHILE THE OFFICE OF PLANNING CONDUCTS A STUDY AND PRODUCES A PLAN OF ACTION FOR GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT.

1           WHEREAS, the State Planning Act requires planning for the  
2 state's physical environment to be directed towards prudent use  
3 of Hawaii's land-based, shoreline, and marine resources, and  
4 effective protection of Hawaii's unique and fragile  
5 environmental resources; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the State Planning Act also requires the State to  
8 manage natural resources to encourage their beneficial and  
9 multiple use without generating costly or irreparable  
10 environmental damage, encourage the protection of rare or  
11 endangered plant and animal species and habitats, and pursue  
12 compatible relationships among activities, facilities, and  
13 natural resources; and  
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15           WHEREAS, the State Water Code states that the waters of the  
16 state are held and protected for the benefit of the citizens of  
17 the state, and acknowledges that a program of comprehensive  
18 water resources planning to address the problems of supply and  
19 conservation of water is needed; and  
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21           WHEREAS, golf course development is said to have adverse  
22 environmental consequences for the water supply and ecology; and  
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24           WHEREAS, golf course development may have a significant  
25 impact on the land ecosystem through the removal of natural  
26 trees and vegetation from the land, the planting and maintaining  
27 of non-native grass, trees, and shrubs; and  
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29           WHEREAS, large amounts of Hawaii's limited water resources  
30 are needed to maintain the golf course, and this water is  
31 diverted from other potential uses; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, maintaining the greens and fairways also requires  
3 the use of fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides,  
4 which may cause contamination of groundwater aquifers, surface  
5 waters, and shoreline ocean waters; and  
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7 WHEREAS, there are already 88 golf courses in Hawaii, and  
8 two more are being built on the Big Island; and  
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10 WHEREAS, an analysis of the environmental impact of  
11 existing golf courses in Hawaii on our land, ocean, and water  
12 resources is necessary and must be considered in the context of  
13 the goals of our State Plan and Water Code prior to authorizing  
14 any new golf course development; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the Office of Planning is required to conduct  
17 special studies and prepare reports that address major policy  
18 issues relating to statewide growth and development; now,  
19 therefore,  
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
23 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the counties are urged to  
24 suspend consideration until July 1, 2010, of all golf course  
25 project applications as of the date this Concurrent Resolution  
26 is adopted; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is urged  
29 to perform a comprehensive study to:  
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- 31 (1) Determine and evaluate the environmental impact that  
32 existing golf courses have on the regions of the state  
33 where they are located, including their impact on  
34 potable water sources;  
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- 36 (2) In consultation with the county planning department of  
37 each county, demarcate the boundaries of each region  
38 to be analyzed for golf course impacts and carrying  
39 capacity and determine the carrying capacity of each  
40 region of the state to sustain further golf course  
41 development; and  
42



1           (3) Produce a plan for environmentally-sound and  
2           sustainable golf course development in each region of  
3           the state;

4  
5 and

6  
7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is  
8 requested to submit to the Legislature a report on its findings  
9 and recommendations, including evaluation of impact, boundaries,  
10 plans for environmentally-sound and sustainable golf course  
11 development, and necessary proposed legislation no later than  
12 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
13 2007; and

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15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in performing this study, the  
16 Office of Planning is requested to solicit and carefully  
17 consider appropriate input from golf course architects,  
18 engineers, and developers, county governments, environmental  
19 groups, local golf associations, and members of affected  
20 communities; and

21  
22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors and Directors  
24 of the county planning departments of the County of Hawaii,  
25 County of Maui, County of Kauai, and City and County of  
26 Honolulu, and the Director of the Office of Planning.

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OFFERED BY:

*Syla B. Berg*  
MAR 15 2006

